

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196489
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
XUSINT HAVANA 2730/2731
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
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PAGE 02 STATE 196489

AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 196489

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, AUGUST 3, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT OF TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING.

Q: SINCE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES OF NO ACTION AGAINST MR. MUGABE'S TERRORISTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE SYRIAN ARMY'S TERRORIST ATTACKS ON CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN REPUDIATED IN THE HOUSE YESTERDAY, COULD YOU TELL US IF THE SECRETARY IS CONSIDERING SOME REVISION IN THESE POLICIES OR WILL THE ARABISTS AND THE BLACK POWER PEOPLE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT STILL PREVAIL?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 196489

A: LET ME SAY THAT THE EDITORIAL COMMENT I DO NOT ACCEPT IN ANSWERING THIS QUESTION. I SIMPLY WANT THAT TO BE UNDERSTOOD ON THE RECORD. NO. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE APPROACH WE ARE TAKING IN BOTH INSTANCES OFFERS THE BEST HOPE, NOT ONLY FOR AN END TO NEEDLESS SUFFERING AND BLOODSHED BUT FOR A LASTING PEACE IN BOTH AREAS.

Q: COULD YOU TAKE A QUESTION ON THE GENERAL ISSUE OF SANCTIONS -- NOT ONLY SYRIA BUT CHILE, UGANDA, RHODESIA -- SINCE PART OF IT WAS INSPIRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION

EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. COULD YOU ADDRESS THE WHOLE ISSUE, IF YOU CAN NOW, AS A POLICY STATEMENT?

A: THE TROUBLE WITH THAT ONE IS THAT IT MAY BE TOO BROAD FOR ME TO ADDRESS. BUT LET ME TAKE IT AND SEE WHAT I CAN COME UP WITH.

Q: ON RHODESIA, COULD YOU ADDRESS YOURSELF MORE SPECIFICALLY TO THE HOUSE ACTION, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THE SENATE? WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES WITH THE BRITISH?

A: WE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONTINUING OUR INITIATIVES. WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS BETTER FOR THE SIDES TO SIT DOWN AND TRY TO REACH A RESOLUTION OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM SO THAT THERE CAN BE AN ELECTORAL PROCESS WHICH IS PEACE, WHICH IS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, WHICH HAS THE KIND OF SUPERVISION THAT OUR PARTICULAR PROPOSAL ENVISIONS, AND WHICH WILL RESULT IN A GOVERNMENT WHICH IN FACT REFLECTS THE WILL OF A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE.

INsofar AS THE SPECIFIC QUESTION AS IT RELATES TO THE ACTION YESTERDAY BY THE HOUSE, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS REPEATEDLY STATED ITS OPPOSITION TO ANY LEGISLATION THAT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 196489

WOULD HAVE THE UNITED STATES VIOLATE ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS BY UNILATERALLY SUSPENDING ITS COMPLIANCE WITH UN SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. IN THAT REGARD, WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT ATTEMPTS TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS IMMEDIATELY AND UNILATERALLY WERE DEFEATED.

WE NOTE THAT THE ICHORD AMENDMENT PROVIDES THAT SANCTIONS WILL NOT BE REMOVED UNTIL CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET. ALTHOUGH IT PROVIDES THAT THE PRESIDENT SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THESE CONDITIONS ARE MET, THE AMENDMENT, IF ADOPTED, WOULD COMPLICATE THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT TO MAINTAIN IMPARTIALITY AMONG THE FACTIONS AND OUR ABILITY TO ADVANCE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN THAT POSITION OF IMPARTIALITY AND IS GOING -- TO REPEAT MYSELF -- TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO BRING ALL OF THE PARTIES TO THE RHODESIAN DISPUTE TOGETHER.

THE POINT OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT TO IMPOSE ONE FACTION OR ANOTHER UPON THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA. IT IS TO END THE CONFLICT AND AVERT THE DANGER OF INCREASED OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT IN IT.

THAT REMAINS THE BASIC POSITION.

Q: ON THIS SUBJECT, DR. KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA HAS WRITTEN TO MR. MICHEL: "I HAVE LEARNED WITH INDIGNATION OF YET A ANOTHER COWARDLY AND UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION AGAINST YOUR COUNTRY BY THE ILLEGAL RHODESIAN REBEL TROOPS."

DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREE WITH DR. KAUNDA THAT THE RACIALLY INTEGRATED TROOPS OF RHODESIA ARE COWARDLY AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 196489

THAT THEIR RAIDS ON THE TERRORIST BASES IN MOZAMBIQUE WERE UNPROVOKED?

A: LET ME AGAIN SAY I CAN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION IN THE WAY YOU PHRASE IT. I HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE RAIDS. I'M NOT GOING TO ISSUE IT AGAIN. I SPOKE TO IT THE OTHER DAY.

Q: DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT DISAGREE WITH THE REVEREND SITHOLE?

HE DEFENDED THESE RAIDS BECAUSE, HE SAID, "WE MUST PROTECT THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN OUR LEADERSHIP." WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT IS THE SUICIDE SQUADS THAT HAVE BEEN SENT BY MR. MUGABE TO MURDER--

A: LES, I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU KEEP PUTTING THESE EDITORIAL THINGS INTO THE RECORD.

A: THE QUESTION IS, DO I AGREE WITH SITHOLE AND WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF THE RAID.

WHAT WE HAVE SAID BEFORE IS THAT WE THINK SUCH ATTACKS SERVE ONLY TO EXACERBATE AND PROLONG THE CONFLICT RATHER THAN BRING IT TO AN END. WE FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT TERRORIST ACTS; WE FEEL THE SAME ABOUT ALL MATTERS WHICH CONTINUE THE CONFLICT. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO END. WE DON'T THINK THAT EITHER ONE OF THEM HELPS TO BRING THE POSITION THAT WE THINK ALL THE PARTIES WOULD WANT, WHICH IS A NEGOTIATED PEACE AND A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AT THE END. VANCE

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